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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Fifty-eighth session
Vienna, 9-17 March 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mohamed Abdelhak Cherbal (Algeria)

Organization of the session and administrative matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its fifty-eighth session, including the special segment on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016, in Vienna from 9 to 17 March 2015. The Chair of the Commission opened the session. A statement was made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A statement was also made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board.

2. Opening statements, including on issues relating to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, were also made by the observer for Chile (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the representative of Namibia (on behalf of the Group of African States), the observer for Jordan (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States) and the observer for Latvia (on behalf of the European Union).

3. The Commission held a total of [...] plenary meetings, including [...] meetings of the special segment, and [...] meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of [...] States members of the Commission ([...] were not represented). Also attending were observers for [...] other States Members of the United Nations, as well as non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for

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intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.7/2015/INF/2.

C. Election of officers

5. In section I of its resolution 1999/30, the Economic and Social Council decided that, with effect from the year 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should, at the end of each session, elect its Bureau for the subsequent session and encourage it to play an active role in the preparations for the regular as well as the intersessional meetings of the Commission, so as to enable the Commission to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the drug programme of UNODC. Pursuant to rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the officers of the Commission hold office until their successors are elected, and are eligible for re-election.

6. In the light of that decision and in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, after the closing of its reconvened fifty-seventh session, on 5 December 2014, opened its fifty-eighth session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. At that meeting, during the consideration of item 1, the Commission elected the Chair, the Second Vice-Chair and the Third Vice-Chair. In accordance with Council resolution 1991/39 and established practice, a group composed of the chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of or observer for the State holding the Presidency of the European Union assists the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the officers, constitutes the extended Bureau foreseen in Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Commission elected the Rapporteur.

7. The officers of the Commission at its fifty-eighth session were as follows:

Office	*Region*	*Officer*
Chair	Asia-Pacific States	Arthayudh Srisamoot (Thailand)
First Vice-Chair	Eastern European States	(*Vacant*)
Second Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	Peter Paul van Wulfften Palthe (Netherlands)
Third Vice-Chair	Latin American and Caribbean States	Antonio Roberto Castellanos López (Guatemala)
Rapporteur	African States	Mohamed Abdelhak Cherbal (Algeria)

8. A group composed of the chairs of the five regional groups (the representatives of Italy and Nigeria and the observers for Albania, Jordan and Panama), the observer for Chile (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and the observer for Latvia (on behalf of the European Union) was established to assist the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. During the

fifty-eighth session of the Commission, the extended Bureau met on [...] March and [...] March 2015 to consider matters related to the organization of work.

9. At its reconvened fifty-seventh session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted decision 57/2, entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". In that decision, the Commission decided that, in order to ensure continuity with respect to its work preparing for the special session of the General Assembly, it would elect a Board tasked with the preparations for the special session based on the regional distribution of officers of the Bureau of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission. The Board would participate in the meetings of the extended Bureaux of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Commission and would assist the Commission and the Chairs of the respective sessions in fulfilling their mandate in accordance with Commission resolution 57/5.

10. The Commission also decided that the Board would be in charge of organizing all actions to be taken by the Commission in preparation for the special session and would address all organizational and substantive matters, in an open-ended manner, in preparation for and during the special segments of Commission sessions devoted to the preparations for the special session, and that it would facilitate the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, along with organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks and other relevant international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, the scientific community and civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in its preparations for the special session, in full compliance with Commission resolution 57/5 and General Assembly resolution 69/200.

11. When the Commission opened its fifty-eighth session for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau at the end of its reconvened fifty-seventh session, on 5 December 2014, it also elected the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session. The other offices of the Board remained vacant. At the 2nd meeting of the Commission, on 9 March 2015, during the consideration of item 1, the Commission elected the First Vice-Chairs, the Second Vice-Chair, the Third Vice-Chair and the Fourth Vice-Chairs of the Board.

12. The officers of the Board are as follows:

Office	*Region*	*Officer*
Chair	African States	Khaled Abdelrahman Shamaa (Egypt)
First Vice-Chairs	Asia-Pacific States	Reza Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Ayoob Erfani (Afghanistan) (*for equal terms*)
Second Vice-Chair	Eastern European States	Károly Dán (Hungary)

Third Vice-Chair	Western European and other States	Pedro Luís Moitinho de Almeida (Portugal)
Fourth Vice-Chairs	Latin American and Caribbean States	Jaime Alberto Cabal Sanclemente (Colombia) and Carmen María Gallardo Hernandez (El Salvador) (*for equal terms*)

D. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Commission adopted by consensus its provisional agenda and organization of work, as orally amended (E/CN.7/2015/1), which had been finalized at its intersessional meetings, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2014/234. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Operational segment

3. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:

   (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;

   (b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

      (i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

      (ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;

   (c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.

Normative segment

4. Round-table discussions: implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem:[1]

   (a) Demand reduction and related measures;

   (b) Supply reduction and related measures;

   (c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.

[1] The substance of agenda item 4 was subsumed under item 8, on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016.

5. Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016:[2]

   (a) Demand reduction and related measures;

   (b) Supply reduction and related measures;

   (c) Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation.

6. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

   (a) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;

   (b) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

   (c) International Narcotics Control Board;

   (d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

   (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.

7. World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

Special segment

8. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016.[3]

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9. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.

10. Other business.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session.

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[2] The substance of agenda item 5 was subsumed under item 8, on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016.

[3] The agenda and programme of work for the special segment were further defined during the intersessional period of the Commission and are contained in document E/CN.7/2015/13.

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Addendum

Special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. The special segment of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held from 9 to 12 March 2015. The special segment was opened by the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission, in its decision 57/2, with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. The Commission adopted the agenda and organization of work for its special segment, as contained in document E/CN.7/2015/13, as orally amended.

2. At the opening of the fifty-eighth session and the special segment, the Commission viewed a video statement by the President of the General Assembly. Statements, including on issues relating to the preparations for the 2016 special session, were made by the observer for Chile (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the representative of Namibia (on behalf of the Group of African States), the observer for Jordan (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States) and the observer for Latvia (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, as well as Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine).

3. The themes for the five interactive discussions held during the special segment of the fifty-eighth session, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, were as follows:

(a) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of

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controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"):

(i) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care;

(ii) Ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

(b) Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"):

(i) Domestic, regional and cross-regional responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering, including, where appropriate, in connection with the financing of terrorism, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters;

(ii) Addressing emerging issues, including new psychotropic substances, precursors and the misuse of the Internet;

(c) Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities:

(i) Addressing drug-related issues in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions;

(ii) Drugs and youth, women, children and communities;

(d) Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions; and strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation:

(i) New challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions;

(ii) Strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and enhancing international cooperation, including technical assistance, leading up to 2019;

(e) Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues:

(i) Drugs, addressing socioeconomic issues and fostering alternative development, including preventive alternative development;

(ii) Enhancing regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy.

4. The substance of agenda items 4 and 5 was subsumed under agenda item 8, entitled "Preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world

drug problem in 2016". For its consideration during its special segment, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2015/3);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2015/9);

(c) Report of the Executive Director on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2015/12);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (E/CN.7/2015/13);

(e) Report of the Secretariat entitled "Special segment: preparations for, the possible outcomes of and organizational matters relating to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016" (E/CN.7/2014/17);

(f) Conference room paper entitled "Special segment: proposals by the Chair of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs relating to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 for consideration by the Commission" (E/CN.7/2014/CRP.15).

B. General debate of the special segment on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

5. At the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 9 March 2015, the Commission held the general debate of its special segment on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

6. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, New Zealand, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Ghana, Australia, Mexico, Portugal, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Uruguay, France, Kyrgyzstan, Spain, the Philippines, Japan, Ecuador, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Poland, Sweden, China, Austria, Thailand, Peru, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Algeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Namibia, El Salvador, Canada, Costa Rica, Norway, Italy, Morocco, Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, Hungary, Switzerland, Cuba, Egypt, Turkey, Qatar and the Republic of Korea.[1]

7. Statements were also made by the observers for the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Cooperation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs

[1] Owing to time constraints, some of the statements mentioned were only made available on the website of the Commission.

(Pompidou Group) of the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States. The observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta also made a statement.

8. It was noted that, despite progress made, the world drug problem continued to pose challenges for the international community and should be addressed on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility.

9. Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the achievement of the targets and goals set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and the objectives set out in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

10. Several speakers emphasized that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 was an important milestone on the way to 2019 and would be a unique and valuable opportunity to take stock of achievements and challenges encountered in addressing the world drug problem and to discuss regional realities, new approaches and emerging trends in an open and transparent format.

11. Speakers reaffirmed that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with the prime responsibility for drug control matters, should continue to lead the preparatory process for the special session, in coordination with the President of the General Assembly.

12. Support was expressed for the proposal of holding a three-day special session and the organization of interactive, high-level round tables in parallel with the general debate, with the involvement of all stakeholders, including the scientific community and civil society. It was noted that any outcome prepared by the Commission for adoption at the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016 should be short and concise. The idea of reflecting the salient points raised during the high-level round tables in a Chair's summary was welcomed.

13. Many speakers expressed appreciation for efforts undertaken by the Commission to ensure an inclusive preparatory process for the special session and emphasized the importance of the effective involvement in that process of all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community, national parliaments and civil society. The importance of actively and meaningfully engaging civil society was highlighted and the establishment of and contributions by the civil society task force and the scientific network were welcomed.

14. Many speakers emphasized the need to safeguard as well as to fully and adequately implement the three international drug control conventions, which continued to be the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

15. Some speakers noted that the current drug control policies had not yielded the expected results in terms of reducing supply and demand and that new approaches were needed. Several speakers stressed that any new approaches should be implemented in the framework of the three international drug control conventions.

Concerns regarding decriminalization and legalization were raised by a number of speakers.

16. The need for an evidence-based, balanced, integrated and multidisciplinary approach in relation to supply and demand reduction strategies, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law, was highlighted.

17. Several speakers mentioned the importance of discussing the proportionality of sentences and alternatives to incarceration and, in a wider framework, the importance of the promotion of drug policies based on respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and human rights. Several speakers reaffirmed their opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences. Other speakers noted that national sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected and that sentencing for drug-related offences should be determined by the national legislation of States.

18. It was stressed that a balanced approach to the world drug problem should take into account that drug addiction was a health problem and that national drug demand reduction strategies should include primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery and social reintegration. A number of speakers noted the need to introduce and implement harm reduction measures. Other speakers stressed that, as part of a balanced approach to addressing the world drug problem, law enforcement measures should also be maintained.

19. The importance of ensuring the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse, was emphasized by many speakers.

20. It was underlined that the international community should undertake efforts to prevent the adverse effects of drug-related violence on societies and communities. The need to address poverty, unemployment and social marginalization in the context of sustainable alternative development programmes was stressed.

21. Several speakers drew attention to integrated and sustainable crop control strategies and highlighted the importance of alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, as part of the broader economic development agenda. The need to strengthen regional and international cooperation to support alternative development programmes, while taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, was highlighted by a number of speakers.

22. Speakers called for the enhancement of regional and international cooperation in order to counter the illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking of drugs, on the basis of the three international drug control conventions as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The need to counter new and emerging challenges, including by providing, upon request, support to law enforcement authorities by strengthening the exchange of information and by enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, was noted.

23. The growing links between drug trafficking and corruption, trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and other forms of organized crime, as

well as, in some cases, money-laundering and terrorism, were noted by several speakers.

24. The threat posed by synthetic drugs and the emergence of new psychoactive substances was highlighted by many speakers, as was the need to strengthen, in response, measures and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels.

25. Support was expressed for the role of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for assisting Member States in countering the world drug problem. UNODC was requested to continue mobilizing resources for the delivery of technical assistance and for enhancing, upon request, the capacities of States, including in the fields of crime and drug prevention, law enforcement, forensic laboratories and training of personnel.

C. Interactive discussions on high-level segments to be held during the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Interactive discussion on demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health")

The interactive discussion on demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"), held on 10 March, was presided over by Pedro Luis Moitinho de Almeida (Portugal) and led by the following panellists: Tawfik Zid (Tunisia), Jose Marlowe S. Pedregosa (Philippines), Jože Hren (Slovenia), Roberto Campa (Mexico), Michael Botticelli (United States), Lochan Naidoo (International Narcotics Control Board), Shekhar Saxena (World Health Organization) and Diederik Lohman (Human Rights Watch).

Summary by the Chair

The Chair's summary of the salient points, which was not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

The importance of a comprehensive, evidence-based and health-centred approach to drug use disorders was highlighted.

Speakers emphasized that a wide and comprehensive range of effective strategies for drug prevention, early intervention and treatment existed and that action needed to be taken at all levels by Governments, international organizations and civil society to expand the coverage, quality, monitoring and evaluation of their programmes.

Speakers emphasized that prevention of drug use based on science and targeting the individual, as well as targeting social vulnerabilities, remained the cornerstone of drug demand reduction efforts, by supporting children, young people, families and communities, particularly those most at risk. Reference was made to factors such as

poverty, social exclusion, stigmatization and a lack of prospects that placed people at risk of using drugs.

The availability of good-quality drug dependence treatment services that were voluntary, based on scientific evidence and medical standards and integrated into a public health approach, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of people suffering from drug disorders and dependence, were recognized as essential.

Speakers noted that the stigmatization of people who suffered from drug use disorders should be addressed, with a special focus on young people and women. It was noted that people who used drugs, instead of being punished, should be provided with integrated health and social care, treatment, reintegration and recovery-oriented services. The need to train medical professionals on how to address substance use disorders and on the use of medications to treat addiction was mentioned.

It was also mentioned that gaps in science remained, notably regarding the treatment of non-opioid users.

Four areas of focus for drug demand reduction strategies were proposed: (a) cost; (b) control; (c) the building of awareness; and (d) the use of effective models of intervention. It was noted that drug demand reduction strategies should be adapted to new challenges posed by new psychoactive drugs, cannabis addiction and patients with treatment needs for multiple diagnoses.

Some speakers noted that, in order to reduce HIV and hepatitis C infection rates among injecting drug users, harm reduction programmes, in particular needle and syringe programmes, opioid substitution treatment, voluntary HIV counselling and testing and antiretroviral therapy, should be implemented. Some speakers also noted the need to develop and implement evidence-based measures to address HIV and hepatitis C among non-injecting stimulant (cocaine, crack and amphetamine-type stimulants) users.

A number of speakers made reference to the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, in which Member States had made a commitment to working towards reducing transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent by 2015, and underlined that that target was likely to be missed. The importance of the role of UNODC as a convening agency of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in supporting countries in the post-2015 era with regard to reducing HIV transmission among people who use drugs and people in prisons was stressed.

Several speakers recognized that there was a high degree of discrepancy between high-income countries on the one hand and low- and middle-income countries on the other in terms of the availability of narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances for medical and scientific purposes, including for pain management and palliative care, and noted that such availability was an obligation for Governments under the three international drug control conventions and international human rights standards and norms, and as part of a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction. Particular reference was made by some speakers to the currently inadequate availability of psychotropic substances controlled under the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 that were used for the treatment of serious

diseases. It was noted that adequate availability must be balanced with measures to prevent the misuse, abuse and diversion of such substances.

Interactive discussion on supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime")

The interactive discussion on supply reduction and related measures, responses to drug-related crime, and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"), held on 10 March, was presided over by Reza Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and led by the following panellists: Rashmi Verma (India), Evika Siliņa (Latvia), Markel Iván Mora (Panama), Paul Griffiths (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction) and Ross Bell (New Zealand Drug Foundation).

Summary by the Chair

The Chair's summary of the salient points, which was not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

It was emphasized that no single approach could resolve the illicit drug problem and that a balanced and sustained effort at the international level was required to achieve successful results. Reference was made to the supply reduction measures contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

Speakers highlighted the need to strengthen law enforcement cooperation at the regional and international levels, including meaningful cross-border cooperation and judicial cooperation, such as for extradition and mutual legal assistance.

It was noted that alternative development efforts had yielded good results, based on the principle of shared responsibility, supported by strong cooperation at the international level, including through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. The importance of addressing the challenges faced by farmers following the eradication of crops was highlighted. The need to address the root causes of criminality linked to the manufacture and trafficking of drugs was also mentioned, as was the importance of strengthening development and stability in source and transit countries through enhanced partnerships.

The successful implementation of sentencing reform resulting in both decreased levels of incarceration and crime was mentioned, and the need for proportionality of punishment was stressed. In that regard, some speakers reaffirmed their opposition to the use of the death penalty, including for drug-related offences.

Some speakers noted that the traditional supply reduction performance indicators for law enforcement, such as quantities seized and the number of arrests, did not completely address the complex nature of the world drug problem and suggested using additional indicators covering further dimensions of supply reduction, such as tracing financial flows, or including the impact of drug control measures on illicit drug demand, in evaluating policies and strategies.

Some speakers highlighted the importance of tracing illicit financial flows generated by drug trafficking and emphasized the need for financial investigation training to combat money-laundering.

Some speakers noted a connection between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including terrorism financing and money-laundering, while other speakers noted that that phenomenon was confined to only some parts of the world.

Some speakers noted that the Internet was increasingly being misused by organized criminal groups to facilitate drug trafficking and highlighted the need for programmes that supported capacity-building for investigating and prosecuting such crimes.

Many speakers recognized the growing threat and global nature of new psychoactive substances, emphasizing the need for international cooperation to address the problem and its relevance for the 2016 special session. To address the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, speakers emphasized the importance of information-sharing at the regional and international levels, of improving the forensic capacity of laboratories to identify new psychoactive substances, with the guidance and cooperation of UNODC, and of the need for prioritization of the most harmful substances, based on health risks and dependency potential. In that regard, it was proposed that the provisional scheduling of substances and scheduling based on the similarity principle be considered.

The need to maintain effective control over precursor chemicals and pre-precursors and to monitor and prevent diversion from licit sources was highlighted, as was the importance of using information technologies for real-time information exchange to identify trends in illicit manufacturing and trafficking.

The need to address existing challenges in reducing the illicit supply of controlled drugs within the framework of the international drug control conventions was stressed. In that regard, it was mentioned by several speakers that innovative approaches could be identified within that framework.

Interactive discussion on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities

The interactive discussion on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities, held on 11 March, was presided over by Károly Dán (Hungary) and led by the following panellists: Ahmed Alfares (Saudia Arabia), Juan Carlos Molina (Argentina), Ruth Dreifuss (Switzerland) and Kristina Sperkova (IOGT International).

Summary by the Chair

The Chair's summary of the salient points, which was not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

Speakers highlighted the importance of and their commitment to human rights, such as the right to life and health, in addressing the world drug problem.

Several speakers underlined that comprehensive health-centred and rights-based approaches, focusing on the individual and with a special focus on vulnerable groups, such as women and children, should be an integral part of drug demand reduction strategies.

The need to address obstacles to development and underlying socioeconomic issues, such as poverty, violence and social exclusion, by providing, inter alia, equal

employment and education opportunities, was mentioned. It was noted that sustainable development and human rights issues should be given due consideration at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. A reference to the right to development was also made.

It was stressed that individuals with drug use disorders required quality, widely available and accessible drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes, as well as access to health care and to evidence-based HIV prevention programmes. The importance of measures to prevent negative health and social consequences, based on scientific evidence, was noted as well. Some speakers further noted that drug demand reduction measures should be based on the three international drug control conventions, while also taking full account of all applicable human rights.

The importance of ensuring adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, was highlighted.

Reference was made to the need to implement gender-sensitive policies and measures tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of female drug users and drug offenders and to mitigating the negative impact on their families.

It was underlined that drug control policies and measures should be implemented in line with the best interests of the child. That included measures to prevent drug abuse and involvement in drug offences by children, and appropriate responses by health-care and child protection services. Reference was made to the importance of early interventions, prevention and awareness-raising measures targeting young people, families and communities. The rights of victims of trafficking in drugs and the impact of social media on drug-related issues were also highlighted.

In the context of criminal justice measures, the importance of proportionality of sentencing and of alternatives to sanctions and imprisonment for non-violent drug-related offences was stressed. A number of speakers mentioned that the stigmatization and punishment of drug users had negative effects and that alternatives to criminal justice sanctions should be used to promote their recovery, social reintegration and treatment.

Several speakers reaffirmed their opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences. Other speakers noted that national sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected. It was stressed that different countries and regions had adopted a wide range of approaches, to which due consideration should be given. The importance of taking into account cultural and traditional specificities when implementing drug policies was mentioned.

Several speakers emphasized the importance of cooperation in addressing drug-related issues at the regional and international levels, and of partnerships with the private sector and civil society. The need for inter-agency coordination and collaboration, including between agencies dealing with health, justice, law enforcement and children and young people, with a view to ensuring a balanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the world drug problem, was stressed.

Interactive discussion on cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions; and strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation

The interactive discussion on cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions; strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation, held on 11 March, was presided over by Khaled Abdel-Rahman Shamaa (Egypt) and led by the following panellists: Tingfang Wu (China), Konstantin Gobrusenko (Russian Federation), Jose Moldiz Mercado (Plurinational State of Bolivia), Pier Vincenzo Piazza (France) and Lisa Sanchez (Transform Drug Policy Foundation).

Summary by the Chair

The Chair's summary of the salient points, which was not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

Speakers called for a humane approach to addressing the world drug problem, while emphasizing that innovative approaches could be implemented within the framework of the international drug control conventions.

Some speakers stressed that innovative drug control policies and new legislation were needed to address the specific and changing realities of the drug control situation, which differed between regions, and advocated for an open discussion on approaches that included the decriminalization of drug use and other efforts to reduce potential negative consequences of current policies. Other speakers took note of new challenges and approaches, while emphasizing their continuing commitment to the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the international drug control conventions, which remained the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

Some speakers stressed that different countries and regions had adopted a wide range of approaches to which due consideration should be given. Reference was made to the importance of the principles of non-intervention, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. Some speakers also noted the importance of taking into account cultural and traditional specificities when implementing drug policies.

The importance of placing the human being at the centre of drug control policies was emphasized. Reference was also made to new challenges, such as the increase in consumption levels, as well as to the need to focus on alternative development, including preventive alternative development, and to improve the lives of people in areas affected by illicit drug cultivation. Also mentioned was the importance of continuing to address poverty and unemployment as they were conducive to social marginalization and were consequently exploited by drug traffickers.

The need for a scientific approach to understanding and treating drug addiction was emphasized. A few speakers reported on innovative pharmacological treatments

available for cannabis addiction and hepatitis C. States were urged to allocate additional resources to research and to make drug addiction treatment a priority.

Some speakers highlighted the need for enhanced cooperation in the fight against money-laundering and for improved sharing of information. It was noted that the financial basis of the illegal drug trade should be studied in order to identify illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, which would allow for a better understanding of the impact of those flows on the economy.

Reference was made to the increasing use of modern equipment and to increased coordination among drug trafficking and terrorist networks. Speakers called for stronger capacity-building to better control sea routes and to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Speakers referred to the challenges posed by the increased use of the Internet, web systems and chat rooms for the purposes of sharing information on production methods and import-export regimes and ordering non-scheduled chemicals and precursor chemicals. In that regard, delays in legislative developments and imbalances in the scope of control in different countries hindered effective action. Proposals were made for a strengthened regime to control new psychoactive substances and for increased cooperation across regions to effectively control precursor chemicals.

The importance of enhancing cooperation to address drug-related issues at the regional and international levels was stressed, as was the importance of partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

Interactive discussion on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy; and addressing socioeconomic issues

The interactive discussion on alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy; and addressing socioeconomic issues, held on 11 March, was presided over by Jaime Alberto Cabal Sanclemente (Colombia) and led by the following panellists: Ahmadu Giade (Nigeria), Dispanadda Diskul (Thailand), Julio Garro Galvez (Peru), Daniel Brombacher (Germany) and Fay Watson (Europe against Drugs).

Summary by the Chair

The Chair's summary of the salient points, which was not subject to negotiation, is presented below.

Several speakers stressed that poverty, lack of livelihood opportunities, vulnerability, lack of government presence, insecurity and lack of access to land were some of the key factors that fostered illicit crop cultivation. Those factors needed to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

Speakers highlighted the importance and added value of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 in further assessing and advancing the issue of alternative development on the international agenda by promoting success stories relating to alternative development and viewing it from a development perspective. Speakers reiterated the importance of incorporating

alternative development into the post-2015 development agenda and into sustainable development goals.

Some speakers highlighted the importance of implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and noted that not all policy decisions had been translated into work in the field.

A number of speakers highlighted that alternative development should be included in broader national development strategies and national drug control strategies.

Several speakers stressed that alternative development required a long-term sustainable integrated comprehensive approach, including the provision and improvement of infrastructure, roads, electricity, water and access to land, health, education and markets. The need to improve the capacity of States to implement alternative development programmes was noted.

International cooperation, including South-South cooperation, and the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, local communities, national and local governments and the private sector were critical for ensuring successful alternative development programmes.

Several speakers noted that where alternative development had been implemented, a sustained reduction in illicit crop cultivation had taken place.

Speakers noted that, over the years, there had been a marked decrease in official development assistance allocated to alternative development, which had resulted in many farming communities not receiving development assistance.

Some speakers pointed to the need to extend the provision of alternative development to countries, particularly in Africa, where cannabis was cultivated, with a view to addressing poverty and vulnerability.

Several speakers highlighted the importance of market access and of establishing market links for alternative development products, stressing that the products needed to be of quality and competitive.

The importance of preventive alternative development and the need to share best practices and lessons learned on alternative development were highlighted.

Several speakers highlighted the importance of assessing the impact of alternative development, not only through illicit crop cultivation estimates, but also through human development indicators, thus ensuring that alternative development was measured from the socioeconomic perspective of improving livelihoods.

Some speakers highlighted that alternative development must be designed with a human-centred approach in order to involve communities in all phases of project implementation.

Some speakers stressed the importance of ensuring the proper sequencing of alternative development, eradication and law enforcement activities when designing actions to combat illicit crop cultivation.

Several speakers welcomed the chapter on alternative development in the forthcoming *World Drug Report 2015*, noting that it could serve as an important element in guiding Member States in preparing for the deliberations at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. The

important role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of UNODC in advancing work in the area of alternative development was mentioned.

D. Provisional agendas for subsequent special segments to be held by the Commission in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, and the organization of the intersessional work of the Commission

26. The Chair informed the Commission that preliminary provisional agendas for subsequent special segments had been brought to the attention of the extended Bureau of the Commission at its meetings held on 5 and 11 March 2015 by the Board tasked by the Commission with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016. [...]

27. The Chair also informed the Commission that the dates for its intersessional meetings on the preparations for the special session would be determined in close coordination with the Conference Management Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna. It was agreed that the intersessional meetings would be complemented by informal meetings and special events.

E. Other business

28. A statement was made by the Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the Civil Society Task Force on Drugs.

F. Outcome and closure of the special segment

29. [...]

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Rapporteur: Mohamed Abdelhak **Cherbal** (Algeria)

Addendum

Implementation of the international drug control treaties

1. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 13 March 2015, the Commission considered agenda item 6, which read as follows:

"Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

"(a) Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations;

"(b) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

"(c) International Narcotics Control Board;

"(d) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion;

"(e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties."

2. For its consideration of item 6, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances (E/CN.7/2015/7 and Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations initiated by the World Health Organization (E/CN.7/2015/8);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on a legal opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs (E/CN.7/2015/14);

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(d) *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2014* (E/INCB/2014/1);

(e) *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2014 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* (E/INCB/2014/4);

(f) *Competent National Authorities under the International Drug Control Treaties* (ST/NAR.3/2014/1);

(g) Report on the UNODC/WHO expert consultation on new psychoactive substances, Vienna, 9-11 December 2014 (E/CN.7/2015/CRP.2);

(h) Updated background paper prepared by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland related to its notification submitted on 23 January 2015 to the Secretary-General on the review of the scope of control of mephedrone (E/CN.7/2015/CRP.3);

(i) Further information provided by China on the proposed scheduling of ketamine (E/CN.7/2015/CRP.5).

3. Introductory statements were made by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section. An audiovisual presentation was made by a representative of the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch of UNODC.

4. A statement was made by the observer for Latvia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine). Statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Canada, India, the Republic of Korea, Colombia, China, Thailand, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, India, the United States of America, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Indonesia, France, Nigeria, Egypt, the United Republic of Tanzania, Namibia, Japan, Belgium, Malaysia, Austria, Brazil, Turkey, Spain and Mexico.

5. Statements were made by observers for the Sudan and El Salvador.

6. Statements were also made by the observers for the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Chamber of Commerce and the Union for International Cancer Control.

A. Deliberations

1. Challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations

7. The different patterns in the emergence and persistence of new psychoactive substances at the global level, the striking heterogeneity at the country level regarding the number and types of new psychoactive substances, and their

fast-changing characteristics continued to pose challenges to the evaluation and risk assessment of substances for possible scheduling recommendations. By December 2014, more than 540 new psychoactive substances in 95 countries and territories had been reported to UNODC by Member States. It was recognized that it was not feasible and probably not necessary to address all such substances at the same time and that there was a need to prioritize the most harmful, persistent and prevalent substances for control under the international drug control conventions, where that would not adversely affect their availability or medical use.

8. A number of speakers welcomed the outcome of the UNODC/WHO expert consultation on new psychoactive substances, held from 9 to 11 December 2014, in particular the strategy to prioritize substances for evaluation by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence based on prevalence of use and potential harm to humans, and urged WHO and UNODC to draw on these criteria and the recommendations of the expert consultation in their work. The importance of enhancing cooperation on data collection between UNODC and WHO was mentioned as well.

9. The key roles of the Commission and WHO in the scheduling process were highlighted, as was the need for Member States to take greater responsibility in sharing data required during the scheduling process. A proposal was made for the Commission to consider matters related to the change in the scope of substances at its reconvened sessions and for WHO to schedule the meetings of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence in a manner that would allow sufficient time for Member States to consider its scheduling recommendations prior to the regular sessions of the Commission.

10. Several speakers welcomed the collaboration between UNODC and WHO on scheduling issues and the sharing of information and recognized the value of the UNODC early warning advisory for this purpose. One speaker encouraged the early warning advisory to include the collection of health-related data on new psychoactive substances, such as harm to humans and prevalence of use. The continued sharing of information and cooperation among UNODC, WHO, the International Narcotics Control Board and other international organizations, as well as Member States, was encouraged by several speakers. The need for improved capacity-building across the law enforcement and public health sectors to prevent diversion and improve availability was also mentioned.

2. Changes in the scope of control of substances

(a) Consideration of a proposal from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to place mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

11. The representative of the United Kingdom introduced its proposal to place mephedrone in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and noted that it was one of the most harmful and persistent new psychoactive substances. He noted that mephedrone had been associated with numerous deaths and other incidents harming public health around the world, that it had no recognized medical or scientific use and that trafficking of mephedrone funded organized crime. The representative also stressed his Government's continued support for an evidence-based scheduling system.

12. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that mephedrone had not been previously pre-reviewed or critically reviewed and that a critical review had been proposed based on information brought to the attention of WHO showing that mephedrone was clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use, as well as in view of the notification by the Government of the United Kingdom dated 23 January 2014. He noted that the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with mephedrone's liability to abuse was substantial, while its therapeutic usefulness had been assessed to be nil, and recommended that mephedrone be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

13. Speakers expressed support for the placement of mephedrone under international control. Speakers described national measures that had been put in place in their countries to control mephedrone, including in the spirit of shared responsibility for addressing the world drug problem, in view of its potential for abuse.

(b) Consideration of a proposal from China to place ketamine in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention

14. The representative of China introduced a proposal to place ketamine in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention, in view of the notification transmitted to the Secretary-General on 8 March 2014 to place ketamine in Schedule I of that Convention. The representative mentioned that there had been growing abuse and illicit manufacture of ketamine in some countries, which harmed public health and social well-being. He noted that both developed and developing countries had introduced national control and that Member States had expressed, at previous sessions of the Commission, serious concerns regarding the manufacture and trafficking of ketamine, while UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board, in their reports, had drawn the attention of the international community to this issue. The representative noted that, further to the consideration of information that had become available in the meantime, China had submitted on 12 March 2015 an amended proposal for ketamine to be placed in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention, in order to ensure a balanced approach and avoid unduly affecting its availability for medical purposes, especially in developing countries, while preventing its abuse. In view of reservations that had been voiced by a number of States, China proposed that the Commission postpone the consideration of the proposal in order to allow parties to consider it further and find the broadest consensus. The representative noted that States might wish to gather more information and study trends relating to ketamine for further in-depth analysis and assessment.

15. The observer for WHO noted that, following a notification under article 2, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention by the Government of China concerning the proposed recommendation for international control of ketamine, the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence had critically reviewed that substance, following its previous critical reviews of ketamine at its 35th and 34th meetings and the pre-review undertaken at its 33rd meeting. The information provided by China in its notification to the Secretary-General had been brought to the Expert Committee's attention. The Expert Committee's assessment was that ketamine "was widely used as an anaesthetic in human and veterinary medicine, and was included in the WHO

Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for Children, as well as in many national lists of essential medicines". The Expert Committee found that there was "compelling evidence ... about the prominent place of ketamine as an anaesthetic in developing countries and crisis situations". While the Expert Committee acknowledged the concerns raised by some countries and United Nations organizations, it stated that ketamine abuse currently did not appear to pose enough of a public health risk on a global scale to warrant scheduling, and recommended "that ketamine not be placed under international control at this time. Countries with serious abuse problems may decide to introduce or maintain control measures, but should ensure ready access to ketamine for surgery and anaesthesia for human and veterinary care".

16. Many speakers expressed their appreciation to China for proposing the postponement of the consideration of its proposal and noted that they would assist in fully examining this issue, including relevant economic, social, legal, administrative and other factors, and in gaining a more complete understanding of the possible implications of scheduling of ketamine. It was noted that it would be useful to receive further information from WHO and from all concerned countries and stakeholders in this regard. The status of ketamine as one of the substances classified as essential by WHO and its widespread use as an anaesthetic in developing countries were mentioned by many speakers.

17. A number of speakers expressed support for placing ketamine under international control, in view of its abuse and trafficking. Speakers described national measures that had been put in place in their countries to control ketamine.

(c) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place AH-7921 in Schedule I of the 1961 Convention

18. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that AH-7921 had not been previously pre-reviewed or critically reviewed. A direct critical review was proposed based on information brought to the attention of WHO indicating that AH-7921 is clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any party. Preliminary data collected from literature and various countries indicated that this substance could cause substantial harm and that it had no medical use. AH-7921 was an opioid with morphine-like effects. The Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with its liability to abuse, as well as additional evidence, warranted its placement under international control. The Committee recommended that AH-7921 be placed in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

19. One observer noted that more information was required regarding the countries and regions where AH-7921 was a concern.

(d) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4-butanediol in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention

20. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that during the discussion of *gamma*-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and 1,4-butanediol at the 34th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, the Committee had noted

information relating to the abuse of *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4-butanediol (convertible to GHB in the body) and suggested those substances for pre-review. Based on the evidence presented in the pre-review of GBL and 1,4-butanediol during its 35th meeting, given its close association with GHB, and the recommendation made by the Committee to reschedule GHB from Schedule IV to Schedule II of the 1971 Convention, the Committee had recommended that a critical review of GBL and 1,4-butanediol be undertaken. The Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the liability to abuse of GBL and 1,4-butanediol was especially serious. While the Committee recognized widespread and important industrial uses, it had no defined therapeutic usefulness. The Committee considered that the evidence of the abuse of the substances warranted their placement under international control in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention.

21. Several speakers noted that both GBL and 1,4-butanediol had widespread industrial uses, that there were no equivalent substances to replace them and that placing them under international control would have a significant and unacceptable impact on trade and industry, such as the automotive and electronic industries. These substances were also used, inter alia, in the pharmaceutical, chemical and high-technology industries, aerospace and transport, as well as in the production of polymers and plastics.

(e) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe), 25C-NBOMe (2C-C-NBOMe) and 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe) in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention

22. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe), 25C-NBOMe (2C-C-NBOMe) and 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe) had not been previously pre-reviewed or critically reviewed. A direct critical review was proposed based on information brought to the attention of WHO indicating that 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe), 25C-NBOMe (2C-C-NBOMe) and 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe) were clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any party. Preliminary data collected from literature and various countries indicated that this substance could cause substantial harm and that it had no medical use. The Committee had noted the challenges associated with the evidence base concerning the substances. The Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the liability to abuse of 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe), 25C-NBOMe (2C-C-NBOMe) and 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe) was especially serious. While the Committee noted their use in medical research, they had no recorded therapeutic use. The Committee considered that the evidence of abuse warranted their placement under international control and recommended that 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe), 25C-NBOMe (2C-C-NBOMe) and 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe) be placed in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention.

(f) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

23. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP) had been pre-reviewed at the 35th meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence and, based on its reported psychostimulant effects, evidence of its

abuse and adverse effects, the Expert Committee had concluded that a critical review was warranted. BZP had been shown to have effects similar to amphetamine. The Committee had considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the liability to abuse of BZP was substantial. It had been assessed to have little therapeutic usefulness, as it was not currently licensed for use. The Committee had considered that the evidence of its abuse warranted its placement under international control. The Committee recommended that BZP be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(g) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place JWH-018 in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

24. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that JWH-018 had not been previously pre-reviewed or critically reviewed. A direct critical review had been proposed based on information brought to the attention of WHO that JWH-018 was clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any party. Preliminary data collected from literature and various countries indicated that this substance could cause substantial harm and that it had no medical use. The Committee noted the challenges associated with the evidence base concerning the substance. The Committee noted analytically confirmed cases of non-fatal and fatal intoxications involving JWH-018. The Committee therefore considered that the degree of risk to public health associated with the liability to abuse of JWH-018 was substantial. Its therapeutic usefulness had been assessed to be none. In accordance with the "Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control", more consideration was given to the substantial public health risk than to the lack of therapeutic usefulness. The Committee recommended that JWH-018 be placed under international control in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(h) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place AM-2201 in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

25. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that AM-2201 had not been previously pre-reviewed or critically reviewed. A direct critical review was proposed based on information brought to the attention of WHO that AM-2201 was clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any party. Preliminary data collected from literature and various countries indicated that this substance could cause substantial harm and that it had no medical use. The Committee noted the challenges associated with the evidence base concerning the substance. The Committee noted analytically confirmed cases of non-fatal and fatal intoxications involving AM-2201. The Committee therefore considered that the degree of risk to public health associated with the liability to abuse of AM-2201 was substantial. Its therapeutic usefulness had been assessed to be nil. In accordance with the "Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control", more consideration was given to the substantial public health risk than to the lack of therapeutic usefulness. The Committee recommended that AM-2201 be placed under international control in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(i) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

26. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) had not been previously pre-reviewed or critically reviewed. A direct critical review was proposed based on information brought to the attention of WHO that MDPV was clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any party. Preliminary data collected from literature and various countries indicated that this substance could cause substantial harm and that it had no medical use. The Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the liability to abuse of MDPV was substantial. Its therapeutic usefulness had been assessed to be nil. The Committee considered that the evidence of its abuse warranted its placement under international control. In accordance with the "Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control", more consideration was given to the substantial public health risk than to the lack of therapeutic usefulness. The Committee recommended that MDPV be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

(j) Consideration of a proposal from the World Health Organization to place methylone (*beta*-keto-MDMA) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention

27. The observer for WHO informed the Commission that methylone had not been previously pre-reviewed or critically reviewed. A direct critical review was proposed based on information brought to the attention of WHO indicating that methylone was clandestinely manufactured, of especially serious risk to public health and society, and of no recognized therapeutic use by any party. Preliminary data collected from literature and various countries indicated that this substance could cause substantial harm and that it had no medical use. The Committee considered that the degree of risk to public health and society associated with the abuse liability of methylone was substantial. Its therapeutic usefulness had been assessed to be nil. The Committee considered that the evidence of its abuse warranted its placement under international control. In accordance with the "Guidance on the WHO review of psychoactive substances for international control", more consideration was given to the substantial public health risk than to the lack of therapeutic usefulness. The Committee recommended that methylone be placed in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention.

3. International Narcotics Control Board

28. Many speakers expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by the International Narcotics Control Board and stressed its important role in monitoring the implementation of the international drug control conventions and in preparing two annual reports and other technical publications on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

29. Speakers expressed appreciation for the emphasis given in the thematic chapter of the Board's report for 2014 to the need for a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach in addressing the world drug problem. They stated that in the lead-up to the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, it was important to encourage States to implement such an approach at the national level, which included devoting attention and resources to demand reduction.

30. A number of speakers expressed support for the Board's call for Member States to implement the provisions of the international drug control conventions, while taking into consideration respect for international human rights obligations. The responsibility of States under the Convention on the Rights of the Child was recalled, in view of the need to protect children from the illicit use of drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances. Several speakers reaffirmed their firm opposition to the use of the death penalty in all cases and under all circumstances. Other speakers noted that national sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected. Several speakers emphasized the importance of bilateral and regional cooperation at the political level among States.

31. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the Board, as well as for its role as global focal point in promoting international communication platforms for monitoring chemical transactions and facilitating intelligence-gathering operations on precursors, such as Project Prism and Project Cohesion. The importance of Pre-Export Notification Online (PEN Online) and the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) in the international precursor control regime was also noted. Reference was made to new trends such as the increasing diversion of precursor chemicals by trafficking groups from domestic trade channels rather than from licit international trade and the continuing replacement by traffickers of controlled chemicals with non-scheduled substances in illicit drug production.

32. Reference was also made to Project Ion and the International Import and Export Authorization System, new initiatives launched by the Board to assist Governments in reducing the illicit manufacture, production, shipping and trafficking of scheduled substances.

33. A number of speakers expressed concern regarding the increasing proliferation of new psychoactive substances, which posed a serious threat to public health. The need to raise awareness about the risk of using such substances, as well as of illicit drugs, as part of existing prevention programmes, was stressed.

34. Several speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. It was noted that regulatory, attitudinal, knowledge-related, economic and procurement-related issues were some of the factors that had an impact on the supply and demand sides of the world drug problem.

4. International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion

35. The need to address the imbalances in the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances at the global level, including for pain management and palliative care, was underlined. States were reminded of their obligation under the international drug control conventions to ensure availability while preventing abuse. It was noted that, although progress had been made, much remained to be done, particularly in terms of access in low- and middle-income countries.

36. It was mentioned there had also been an increase in the abuse of prescription drugs, including in the case of narcotics, and an increase in related overdose deaths.

37. It was noted that reliable qualitative and quantitative data on manufacture, trade and consumption of psychotropic substances was the best mechanism for determining estimates and monitoring the availability of these substances for medical and scientific purposes.

38. The importance of regional and international cooperation in ensuring the security of the supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes was underlined.

39. The progress made through the joint global programme implemented by UNODC, WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control in assisting countries to address the barriers related to access was welcomed.

5. Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties

40. At its 11th meeting, on 13 March 2015, the Commission considered agenda item 6 (e), entitled "Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties". No issues were raised under the item.

B. Action taken by the Commission

41. At its 10th meeting, on 13 March 2015, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided by 47 votes to none, with 1 abstention, to include mephedrone in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

42. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by consensus to postpone the consideration of the recommendation to place ketamine in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention and to request additional information from WHO and other relevant sources.

43. At the same meeting, the Commission decided, to include AH-7921 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

44. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by consensus not to act on the proposed inclusion of *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention.

45. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by consensus not to act on the proposed inclusion of 1,4-butanediol in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention.

46. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 46 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, to include 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe) in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

47. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 46 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, to include 25C-NBOMe (2C-C-NBOMe) in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

48. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 47 votes to 1 to include 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe) in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

49. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to 1 to include *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

50. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, to include JWH-018 in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

51. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to 1 to include AM-2201 in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

52. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 48 votes to 1 to include 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

53. At the same meeting, the Commission decided by 49 votes to 1 to include methylone (*beta*-keto-MDMA) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. (For the text of the decision, see chap. I, sect. C, decision [...].)

54. Upon the adoption of the decisions on the scheduling of 25B-NBOMe, 25C-NBOMe, 25I-NBOMe, *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP), JWH-018, AM-2201, 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) and methylone (*beta*-keto-MDMA), the representative of Austria noted the Austrian Government's agreement that effective measures against the increasingly rapid emergence of new psychoactive substances were important, that measures at the national level alone were insufficient and that effective cooperation and coordination between all States was essential. At the same time, in view of the specificity of the phenomenon of new psychoactive substances, Austria considered that it was preferable to develop new, tailor-made instruments and mechanisms and that producers and dealers must be hindered from easily and rapidly replacing a substance as soon as it was displaced from the consumer market by another substance. The continuous production of new variations of new psychoactive substances needed to be stopped by addressing the problem at its roots. Austria had adopted a New Psychoactive Substances Act under which it pursued a broad generic approach and criminal proceedings against the supplier's side only. The Act not only covered individually defined substances, but also authorized the Federal Ministry of Health to define classes of chemical substances if that approach seemed more suitable than specifying individual new psychoactive substances in order to prevent their distribution and their possible health hazards for consumers. The Act did not cover mere possession in order not to jeopardize open access for consumers, which is highly important in terms of prevention and harm reduction; from the beginning of the pretrial stage of criminal proceedings, it targeted the supplier's side. The criminal sanctions thus focused on the production of new psychoactive substances and their distribution in the consumer market, but the law did not affect any possible legitimate use in industry. Moreover, the selection of one or another individual substance from broadly defined groups of chemical substances that were subject to the Act, and their subjection to the Austrian Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law instead, while all the other analogues continued to be dealt with under the Act, would lead to highly irregular results in court cases, which would not be in line with the constitutional principles of Austria. Austria therefore reserved its decision on whether to schedule a new psychoactive substance under its national Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law, through

which it was implementing the three international drug control conventions, or whether to deal with it under the New Psychoactive Substances Act. Although Austria was not in a position to deal with new psychoactive substances precisely as set out in the conventions, their production for and their availability on the consumer market were being criminalized. The representative of Austria reiterated the Austrian Government's readiness to cooperate with the international community on the basis described above.

55. Upon the adoption of the decisions on the scheduling of JWH-018, AM-2201, 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), methylone (*beta*-keto-MDMA) and mephedrone, the representative of France noted that her Government would have preferred for those substances to be placed under Schedule I of the 1971 Convention. Regarding *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4 butanediol, the representative of France stated that, although her Government had not supported their inclusion in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention, those substances presented a proven risk to public health and other measures should be taken to control them.

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Rapporteur: Mohamed Abdelhak Cherbal (Algeria)

Addendum

Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 16 March 2015, the Commission considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

> "Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:
>
> (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;
>
> (b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:
>
> (i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
>
> (ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;
>
> (c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters."

V.15-01880 (E)

Please recycle

2. For its consideration of item 3, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2015/6-E/CN.15/2015/6);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime adopted since 2012 in which action by the Office was requested (E/CN.7/2015/10);

(d) Report on the reconvened fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2014/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2014/16/Add.1).

3. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Management. The representative of Spain, in his capacity as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, also made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the Director of the Division for Operations and the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs.

4. Statements were made by the representative of Chile (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China). Statements were also made by the representatives of Brazil, India, Japan, Indonesia, the United States of America, Thailand, China and the Republic of Korea.

5. Statements were made by the observers for Sweden, Norway and South Africa.

6. A statement was also made by the observer for the Washington Office on Latin America.

Deliberations

7. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC as a useful forum for exchanging information and for its role in enhancing cooperation on programmatic and financial matters between Member States and UNODC, and expressed their support for the extension of its mandate. It was mentioned that the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was of great value.

8. The increase in special-purpose contributions was welcomed as a sign of donors' confidence in the work of the Office, although concern was expressed over the decline in general-purpose resources. Speakers stressed the importance of continuing efforts to solicit general-purpose funds from Member States and in-kind contributions from recipient States, and to widen the donor base.

9. Some speakers welcomed the implementation of full cost recovery as an instrument for increased transparency and sustainability. Speakers highlighted the continuing need to evaluate the impact of full cost recovery on programme delivery.

One speaker recalled that the new funding model had been approved on a provisional basis and that its feasibility should be reviewed, and stressed the importance of its consistent and transparent implementation. Some speakers stated that the use of programme support costs should not be limited to headquarters and that a flexible application of programme support costs should be explored. It was important for UNODC to stay competitive by maintaining low overhead costs. Cost-saving measures should be continued and further information on cost-efficiencies in the field and at headquarters should be provided to Member States.

10. Several speakers welcomed the inclusion of the item on the composition of UNODC staff and other related matters in the agenda of the Commission. Speakers expressed concern regarding the inadequate geographical representation of developing countries and regarding gender balance, and urged UNODC to take appropriate action in that regard by fully incorporating those elements into the recruitment policy of UNODC both at headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior and policymaking levels and for professional posts requiring specific skills. It was mentioned that the focus of the Charter of the United Nations on the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity in all hiring decisions should be supported, and organizations should be encouraged to develop comprehensive diversity, recruitment and workforce-planning strategies that addressed gender equality and cultural diversity. Speakers noted that the item should remain as a separate item on the agenda of the Commission and urged UNODC to engage in an open and transparent dialogue and provide the requested disaggregated information in writing. One speaker called for an immediate action plan to ensure equal gender balance.

11. Several speakers underscored the need for constant improvement in results-based management in UNODC and commended the efforts of the Office to report on programme-level results. Welcoming the ongoing development of the annual report and annual appeal, hope was expressed that they, along with the ongoing institutionalization of a culture of evaluation, would lead to a clear strategic narrative that would provide a holistic picture of the Office's achievements at headquarters and in the Field. Some speakers mentioned the need for defining robust indicators and for ensuring that the Office's programmes were based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The importance of cooperating with other entities of the United Nations system and civil society was also mentioned.

12. Some speakers expressed concern regarding the methodology used to develop the model legislative provisions to combat fraudulent medicines posing threats to public health, referred to in paragraph 32 of the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Office (E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2), and requested detailed information on that activity, its funding, the process of selection of experts and its current status.

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Addendum

World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

1. At its 13th meeting, on 16 March 2015, the Commission considered agenda item 7, which read as follows: "World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission".

2. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2015/4);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/2015/5);

(c) Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities (E/CN.7/2015/CRP.1).

3. An introductory presentation was made by a representative of the Implementation Support Section of the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch of UNODC.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, the United States of America and the Republic of Korea. Statements were also made by the observers for Kenya, Armenia and Morocco.

V.15-01874 (E)

Please recycle

Deliberations

5. Speakers noted the valuable contributions of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to the work of the Commission. The observer for Kenya and the representative of Thailand reported on the outcomes of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, and the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in 2014, in their capacity as Chairs of those meetings. In particular, they reported on the recommendations adopted by the experts participating in those meetings on a wide range of issues, including but not limited to trends and developments regarding new psychoactive substances and other substances not under international control, challenges posed by cannabis and heroin, and cooperation among drug law enforcement agencies. Speakers also made reference to the contributions provided by all of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly, as well as to the substantive and technical contributions of UNODC.

6. Reference was made to the reduction in the cultivation of coca bush and the knock-on effect on cocaine trafficking, and the continuing need for international cooperation to effectively reduce the illicit supply of and demand for drugs. Attention was drawn to the importance of supporting ongoing national efforts to counter the cultivation of illicit drug crops and invest in alternative development programmes, while also implementing drug demand reduction programmes. Particular reference was made to the initiatives Project Ion and the joint World Customs Organization-UNODC Container Control Programme as examples of effective supply reduction responses.

7. A number of speakers provided statistics on seizures made during 2014 and highlighted efforts made to reduce supply and provide treatment for drug-dependent individuals. The growing threat posed by trafficking via the Internet was specifically highlighted, particularly trafficking in new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants. The need to strengthen international cooperation, particularly with regard to legal assistance, harmonization of laws and information-sharing, in order for transnational organized criminal groups to be stopped from trafficking drugs and precursors, was emphasized.

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Addendum

Other business

1. At its 13th meeting, on 16 March 2015, the Commission considered agenda item 10, which read as follows: "Other business".

2. An introductory statement was made by the Chair of the Commission. An introductory statement was also made by the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs.

Deliberations

3. The Chair recalled that, at its intersessional meeting on 29 January 2015, the Commission had agreed that it would consider matters relating to the Economic and Social Council under the agenda item. The Chair informed the Commission that, on 19 December 2014, he had received a letter from the President of the Council containing information relating to its session in 2015, in which it was noted that the Council would have a central role in advancing an integrated approach to a unified and universal post-2015 development framework based on sustainable development goals. The Council would support that process through its work during the 2015 session, culminating in a high-level segment to be held from 6 to 10 July 2015. The Chair also noted that the Commission had been requested to provide to the Council a substantive contribution, as appropriate, by 29 May 2015, and reiterated the invitation to Member States to provide written contributions, if any, in due time.

4. The Chair recalled that the Commission had provided an input to the 2015 integration segment of the Council on the theme "Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all".

V.15-01886 (E)

Please recycle

5. The representative of UNODC stated that, from the inception of its work on a new development agenda, the international community had placed its focus on policy areas that could improve the sustainability of the poverty alleviation targets enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals. Sustainable development could not take place when large illicit sectors, such as drug production and trafficking, influenced local and national economies, given their impact on governance, access to basic services, violence and potential conflict. The new set of targets, the Sustainable Development Goals, presented unprecedented opportunities to make progress within UNODC mandates, as they were more comprehensive, integrated and horizontal, bringing together the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The contribution of the Commission was instrumental to achieving that holistic approach, including through the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. In the Declaration, Member States noted that the world drug problem undermined, inter alia, sustainable development, including efforts to eradicate poverty; reiterated that interventions should consider vulnerabilities that undermined human development, such as poverty and social marginalization; and committed themselves to increasing cooperation in order to counter the world drug problem. In that context, under the overall guidance of the Commission, UNODC was determined to provide its substantive contribution to the common United Nations effort at the global, regional, national and local levels.